RESULTS OF THE HAGUE CONFERENCE. THE ASSOCIATION DIVIDED INTO TWO CLASSES-THE LIMITS OF ARBITRATION-A GERMAN JURIST ON STANDING ARMIES-THE RIGHTS OF NEUTRALS-INTERNATIONAL QUESTIONS AFFECTING COM-

MERCE. [FROM A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT OF THE TRIBUNE.] THE HAGUE, Sept. 13.-It will now be order for me to state what the Association for reforming and codifying the law of nations has done and is likely to do. As stated already, the members of the Association have practically divided themselves into two distinct classes, namely, the public international jurists and the private international jurists. To the former belong likewise a very active and useful peace party, including among their number several clerical gentlemen; while the latter include men of note, eminent jurists and judges, whose names appear among the officers of the Association. Indeed, it is the presence of these names which has given such exceptional prominence to the proceedings at the Hague, and has been mainly instrumental in attracting the notice of the press. The programme of the Hague Conference contains a series of subjects upon which the public had been invited to furnish papers. I cannot do better than follow the order given in this document as my guide in

making a synopsis of the proceedings.

The first question was brought before the Conference by Henry Richard, M. P., the well-known leader of the powerful and active reace party in England. In his paper, entitled "The limits, of arbitration for the settlement of international disputes." Mr. Richard assumes that all differences between nations are capable of friendly adjustment. He forgets, however-and those who deal with codification and the formation of international tribunals fall into the same error-that there are questions between nations which cannot be referred to others for settlement, such as the late question of the secession of the Southern States, or the political supremacy of France or Germany. It follows that if matters of vital interest cannot be referred, then the use of arbitration is only a matter of convenience, and the twenty instances which have happened within the last fifteen years, and were so often cited by the speaker, prove nothing. It is in fact idle to assert that feelings of humanity or morality influence the Governments of the present day more than in former years. The question of war or peace has become a question of money and military resources. Both Kings and Presidents hence find it absolutely necessary to consider the expediency of sacrificing men and money unless the interests at stake justify the cost. Numerous cases will from to time arise which must be referred, and will in all future time be adjusted by a court of arbitrators. For the settlement of these differences it may be as well to establish a high tribunal, and perhaps following the ingenuous suggestion of Mr. I. Sprague (United States), create a voluntary court in the first instance, elected by the parties disputant, with ultimate appeal to a supreme mixed international tribunal. A power more effective than all moral persuasion, the law of expediency, will in future relegate all these minor questions to courts of reference; but to talk of utopian happiness of ending wars by reference, and to point to the last 20 years' experience as the result of the action of the peace party, is utterly erroneous. This the opponents of the public international law party feel, and hence voted unswervingly against the many propositions out forward by Dr. Miles, Mr. H. Richard, and their friends.

The question of the delays and formalities to be observed before engaging in offensive war was strongly enough put forward for consideration by the same party. In modern days no formalities are ta fact observed, and to hamper intending beligerents by delays, such as by analogy are observed in legal processes, is indeed stretching a point.

The delicate and dangerous ground of European prinaments was touched upon with singular want of tact. Indeed this matter ought never, however interesting, to have been brought before the meeting. The answer of the Germans to the disarmament theory is very curt. "Change," say they, "our reographical position, and we will alter our army organization." A sterner answer was given by Dr. Elunischii, who, in his written replies to questions submitted by the American Code Committee, all but specingly answered that the only limit to a national army was the physical power of a race, and that an army was not only necessary but useful. These words of Dr. Bluntschili are of exceptional alguincance, for they may be accepted as the expressions of Prince Bismarck, uttered at a meeting which

pretends to further peace.

Following these questions Prof. Leoni Levi submitted a well written essay on the rights of neutrals, which teuched the question of the supply of armed vessels and arms, the very point raised in the Alabama reference. Within the same class of subject matters was that of the usages of war, popularly regarded as within the province of the Prassels Conference. The essentially political character of these discussions was no doubt objectionable, though in themselves they proved of exceptional interest. Admitting war as unavoidable, is war to be a struggle between races, or merely an armed duel of trained forces? If the latter, then the most powerful and only arm Great Britain possesses will be taken from her, for a naval war between iron-clads cannot be deemed of vital importance, while the destruction of the trade and mercantile marine of a people is a weapon which strikes at the very heart strength of a people. An opinion prevails that the great military powers of Europe intend to enforce this en the Government of England. How they are to succeed

without a European war. I am at a loss to understand.

I furn from these all-absorbing questions to those within the legitimate limits of private international law. No one acquainted with the vast and everextending commercial intercourse between the different countries peopled by the Aryan races, but will admit that the time has come for the establishing of common rules of conduct, rules defining the rights of the individuals composing the different nationalities. This conviction appears to have aufmated not only those who attended the Conference, but the press and the legal and commercial public of Europe, and I am convinced will likewise command the attention of the more educated classes of the United States. A glance at the subject matters submitted at the Hague Conference may aid in pointing out the importance of these questions which deeply so affect commercial interests. Thus the extradition question is one which is pressing upon the attention of the Cabinets and courts of law of every civilized country. That these questions should have been brought forward by the Dutch Committee, who had deputed M. Carninek Liefting, Honorary Vice-President and Judge of the Supreme Court of the Netherlands, and Mr. de Pinto, Chief of the Bureau of the Minister of Justice, to take the lead and submit questions for discussion, proves the profound public interest felt in these matters both in the Netherlands and I may add Belgium, for both countries have of late felt the pressure of the might of Bismarck. The Conference fully appreciated the high importance of these questions, and appointed a Committee to gather information As the star-mass inited of mean;

The second group included negotiable securities, the first question under this heading being that of the codification of the laws of bills of exchange. That the assimilation of these laws is not only possible, but that it is mature for consideration, is admitted on all sides. It is a matter of surprise, incleed, that action should have been taken so tardily. In 1870 the Invistentag of Hungary; in 1872, that of Copenhagen, supporting the Austrian and Berlin of Copenhagen, supporting the Austrian and Berlin of the mandature for consideration and mature for consideration in the matter of its mystery of the mean of the surprise, included the star of the might also have discerned in this "empty rights over the temb of a lost love, hope itself was rejected as a crael mockery, and the dark angel conquered. The might also have discerned in this "empty rights over the temb of a lost love, hope itself was rejected as a crael mockery, and the dark angel conquered. The might have seen to be rising over the temb of a lost love, hope itself was rejected as a crael mockery, and the dark angel conquered. The might have seen to be rising over the temb of a lost love, hope itself was rejected as a crael mockery, and the dark angel conquered. The might have seen to be rising over the temb of a lost love, hope itself was rejected as a crael mockery, and the dark angel conquered. The might have the plant was seen to be rising over the temb of a lost love, hope itself was rejected as a crael mockery, and the dark angel conquered. The might have seen to be, hoping against an amber of deaths of infants and of those caused by diarries, typhoid fever, and pulmonary diseases. The mande of the same of the same and of those caused by diarries, typhoid fever, and pulmonary diseases. The mande of the same and of those caused by diarries, typhoid fever, and pulmonary diseases. The mande of the same and of tho Meetings, voted the desirability and practicability

gotiable Paper and Taper to Bearer." The laws regarding the issue of bonds and shares, both by private companies, or by State power, are a matter affecting the interests of the moheged and industrious classes all over the world; and no doubt can exist that, both in the interests of the borrower, and the lender, or investor, some common rules ought to be adopted, some common form of instrument be employed; and that the duties and obligations on one side, and the rights and remedies on the other, ought to be defined. It is therefore hoped that the committee appointed will be successful in obtaining informa-

tion to be presented in their report next year. Underlying the commercial element is the grave and political element regarding the liability of a State for the performance of its contracts, touched upon by M. H. Becker, in a paper entitled Foreign Loans. The paper on Collisions at Sea, contributed by David Dudley Field, and the report of the Committee placed before the meeting one of those intricate, deliberate questions which, with merciless sternness, comes forward again and again after every disaster, imperiously demanding attention. The pathways of the ocean, the rules of navigation, the tonnage value question, the ultimate hability for torts, are all crowded together under this heading. Shipper and insurer, shipowner and passenger, are all alike interested. The papers submitted to the Conference were, I fear, defective; several of the suggestions made by Mr. Field were impracticable; but, be this as it may, great credit is due to the American Code Committee for taking the initiative and arousing attention to this allimportant matter. The attention of the public once aroused, there can be no doubt that able jurisis in all parts of the world will come forward and aid the eminent men who compose the Committee in forming rules for the consideration of the next Confer-

I believe enough has been said to convince me that many of the objects of the Association are feasible, useful, practical. It is this fact that has given to this Society such prominence, despite of the unguarded philanthropic enthusiasm of some of its members. On the list of officers may be noticed the names of men renowned for learning, exalted in their posicion, who, re doubt, convinced of the appropriateness of the objects in view, have lent their names and given weight to the proceedings of the Association. The Americans have been every reason to be proud of the success so far attained, and will no doubt in future support those who desire to give to the future of the Association the character of thorough usefulness.

POE, CRITIC, AND HOBBY.

A REPLY TO MR. FAIRFIELD. CERTAIN HARD FACTS WHICH HAVE BEEN OVER- if retail dealers, \$150; while dealers in malt

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sin: Mr. F. G. Fairfield, a gentleman who has had the temerity to pass "ten years among spiritual mediums" in the cause of science, having demonstrated that they are all more or less afflicted with epileptic mania, has recently turned his attention to poets and men of inspirational genius, and finds that they, too, from Ezckiel to Æschylus, from Æschylus to Coleridge, are all mad as March hares. If there is method in their madness, there is also madness in their method. He frankly confesses in his book of mediums that he has himself had personal expericase of the malady. He has studied it in all its phases. He intimates that "habitual lying" is one of its most trustworthy exponents. I by no means wish to undervalue Mr. Fairfield's researches in the nebulous atmosphere of peripheral nerve-auras. They are valuable and interesting, but does not his theory threaten to cover too much ground f

In the October number of Scribner's this gentleman has an article entitled "A Mad Man of Letters," in which he selects the author of "The Raven" as a favorable specimen of the epileptic type. Assuming chronic lying as symptomatic of the disease, he gravely quotes the following story in evidence of Poe's habitual mendacity. A single instance, be says, may suffice to prove the many. Here is the instance: A gentleman who processed to have re-Poe, once on a time, after walking all the way from New-York to Fordham, swallowed a cup of tea, sat down to his writing-desk, and deshed off "The Paven 2 substantially as it is now printed, and submitted it to Mrs. Clemm as the result of his evening's incubation! Unmindful of the fact that Poe did not reside in Fordham until long when Mr. Fairfield assures us that he has the evidence of Poe's literary cotemporaries on this matter -gentlemen who were in the babit of meeting him at midday for a cozy chat in Sandy Welch's cellar, And did not these gentlemen assure him that the poem was produced line by line, stauza by stauza, and submitted by Poe, piecemeal, to the criticism and emendation of the Annest, clique f-gentlemen who doubtless "knew a hawk from a hand-saw when the wind was southerly," and who suggested many valuable alterations and substitutions. One of these gentlemen, says Mr. Fairfield, has even pointed out to me particular instances of phrases that were incorporated at his own suggestion, "showing that 'The Raven' was a kind of joint-stock operation in which many initials held small shares of intellectual prop-After this may we not hope that the gentle able fewl in Sandy Welch's cellar will come forward in a body to claim their respective shares in this piece of joint-stock properly, thus setting at rest forward all questions as to "Who wrote 'The Raven!" "Was 'The Raven' a Persian fowl?" "Whence came he manuscript found in Mr. Shayer's burn?" and men who assisted at the incubation of this remarkable fowl in Sandy Welch's cellar will come forward in a body to claim their respective shares in this piece of joint-stock property, thus setting at rest for-ever all questions as to "Who wrote 'The Rayen?" the manuscript found in Mr. Shaver's barn?" and other interrogations of like import which have from

time to time agitated the purlieus of Parnassus. Having disposed of "The Raven," Mr. Fairfield applies his scalpel to Poe's wonderful poem of "Ulalume," cailing it. in his haphazard way, " his last poem-a mere rigmarole in rhyme, exhibiting in its elaborate emptiness the last stages of mental decrepitude and decay." "Thus sang he, then died," exclaims this careful and conscientious commenta-On the contrary, "thus sang he," then wrote "Euceka," "The Bells," "Annabel Lee," and other of his most memorable poems. But when an "alienist"—I believe that is the correct word—mounts his hobby and rides rough-shod in pursuit of an epileptic subject to illustrate a favorite theory, he cannot be expected to pay much attention to such hard facts as happen to lie in his way. The critic does not, in this instance, accuse the unhappy author of plaziarism; does not even remotely insinuate that the poem had been slicked up in Sandy Welch's cellar. It was altogether too rough a specimen for the cotemporaries to have taken stock in. If Mr. Fairfield, who is not without poetic insight, had thought less of his theory and more of his subject, he might have better apprehended what he is pleased to call the good of the poem; might have seen that it was not the "low-hanging moon," but Venus "Astaite"—the crescent siar of hope and love, that, after a night of herror, was seen in the Constellation Lee:

"Coming up through the lair of the Lion ist"-I believe that is the correct word-mounts his

"Coming up through the lair of the Lion As the star-dials inneed of mern."

of Copenhagen, supporting the Austrian and Berlin
Meetings, voted the desirability and practicability
of the international assimilation of the laws and
Kaven, 'The Ancient Mariner,' and 'Queen Mash,' in practice in regard to bills of exchange. A committee of eminent jurists was nominated to draft a bill to be submitted at the next Annual Conference. It is hoped that America will not fail to take part in this movement, and will consent to be represented by some of her leading commercial jurists. Equally important, though not so maiure for immediate action as the former question, was that brought to the notice of the Conference by Mr. H. D. Jencken on "Ne-"

of Letters." His "subilmation of the subjective" is now "epileptic egotion." "He was an egotist to the core." "In his 'Eureka' there is scarcely an original thought. Poe did not think, he was simply a dreamer." "Sent to college, he found his work interfering with his dreams. Hence he ran away (b) and afterward tried to atone for his lack of mental culture by cunning devices and feats of the solvespizzle kind. He was incapable of honest work."

It his piece of amateur surgery is a specimen of "honest work," one must needs borrow Esop's lantern to find out its honesty. "S. H. W.

Providence, Sept. 29, 1875. Providence, Sept. 29, 1875.

TEMPERANCE LAWS.

EXPERIENCE OF MICHIGAN. FAILURE OF THE PROHIBITORY POLICY-ADOPTION

OF A LICENSE LAW-ITS PROVISIONS-DECREASE OF INTEMPERANCE.

FROM AN OCCASIONAL CORRESPONDENT OF THE TRIBUNE. DETROIT, Oct. 2 .- The State of Michigan has been fortunate in at least one experiment which legislators have always been afraid of. The abolition of capital punishment was apparently a great risk for any Commonwealth to assume. Nothing but an actual experience of its workings could test the question whether the law that ceased to hang the murderer would increase or diminish the number of murders. Michigan was willing to make the trial. The result, as is well known, has been that there are fewer murders in that State than before. Michigan is entitled to credit for the nerve necessary to make experiments in social problems. Among these must be mentioned her efforts for the suppression of intemperance. A law was passed declaring the whole business of selling liquors illegal. The Supreme Court aftirmed and reaftirmed the constitutionality of the law. It was fully tried in practice. As a net result, 6,444 places in that State engaged in violating the law. The receipts for liquor thus illegally sold were stimated to amount to \$38,000,000 per annum. It enforced because public sentiment did not sustain it. The liquor question became a formidable element

in the State canvass of 1874. Gov. Bagley, then a candidate for reflection, would give pledges neither to the liquor interest nor to the Prohibitionists. The latter ran a separate ticket, and he was also opposed by the advocates of a license law. His majority of  $6992_{100}$  per cent in 1872 was reduced in 1874 to 5046<sub>100</sub>. In his message after election, he expounded his theory of a license law, and a bill embodying it was introduced in the Legislature. This bill was fought over till near the close of the session, and passed at length by 52 votes, 51 being required. It lraws a distinction between sellers of distilled and of mall liquors, the former, if wholesale dealers, being required to pay an annual license fee of \$300; LOOKED IN THE SEARCH FOR AN EPILEPTIC or brewed beverages pay, wholesale \$100, retail \$10. Distillers of spirituous liquors also pay \$300, while brewers of malt liquor pay from \$50 to \$200, depending on the amount of their product. No tax the fruits of the State. The assessor of each township, ward, &c., makes the roll of those who shall pay the license, and turns this over to the county treasurer. This plan is found better than that of intrusting the matter to the township officers, who were sometimes, it is believed, themselves the proprietors of rum-holes. The Governor holds his power of appointment over the sheriffs as a means of compelling due attention to the assessments. The law

town decree otherwise. A prominent feature in the law is the requirement that inquor dealers shall give bonds of not less than \$1,000 cach, to be approved by the local authorities in writing. This is deemed of greater efficacy than the license tax in closing the viler rum-holes and making it difficult to open new ones. The effect during the few weeks that the law has been in opeceived the "facts" from Mrs. Clemm told him that | larger cities at late hours and on Sunday seems to larger cities at late hours and on Sunday seems to have been effectually secured. The total number of The Colonel says that "on the 26th of June each and arrests for crimes is much smaller than in corresponding months for previous years. It only remains to be said, that, first, this law proves practi-

cable; second, it is thoroughly enforced. of honors. He also said that he regarded their bad quality as having much to do with the worst effects of intemperance. To bring about an improvement he fee to \$500. It is questioned here in Michigan whether this would prove as effectual as the system above described. So heavy a license fee, it is thought, would of course arouse a spirited opposition. The efforts to evade the regulation might prove more successful than the attempts to en-

MICHIGAN'S LIQUOR LAW VALID. DETROIT, Mich., Oct. 12.-The State law taxing the liquor business was decided by the Supreme Court to-day to be constitutional. The main points of the case were, first, whether the present liquor law taxing the busines is not practically a license law, and thus in contraveution of the Constitution, which prohibits the

LIFE INSURANCE INTERESTS.

At the quarterly meeting of the Chamber of Life Insurance yesterday, at No. 99 Nassau-st., there were only ten companies represented—Charter Oak of of Philadelphia, St. Louis Life of St. Louis, and the Equitable, Knickerbocker, Mutual Life, Security Life and Annuity, New-York Life, and United States Life of New-York. The Committee on Law reported progress in re-sisting certain taxes imposed in some States. The Committee claim the tax imposed by the State of Pennsylvania upon the companies of other States is unconstitu-Valua spon the new Constitution of Penosylvania; also that the Ohio rax is il egal. The State of Massachusetts has attempted to apply its non-foriciner law to all policies issued to residents of the State by companies of other States, as well as to the policies issued by Massachusetts companies. The Cambier holds this to be illegal, and the Law Committee will resist its enforce-

Charliton T. Lewis, Secretary of the Chamber, stated

DECREASE OF MORTALITY IN THE CITY.

At the meeting of the Board of Health yes-At the meeting of the Board of Health yesterday Dr. Eischa Harris reported that the return of 529 deaths for the past week showed a decrease of 57 in the number of deaths of infants and of those caused by diarries, typhoid fever, and pulmonary diseases. The mean temperature was 2.4 degrees cooler than daring the preceding week. The death-rate was equal to 25.95 per 1.000, against 23.00 for the week ending Oct. 2. Sabitary saperintendent Day reported that the sanitary mentioned eigenvalues in this bridge classified for the first mean temperature was 2.4 degrees cooler than daring the preceding week. The death-rate was equal to 25.95 be drawn upon one side of the bridge in the form of human beings, a not improbable event under the before mentioned eigenvalues it will them, periodicy to down.

mind, they would anorth even the first meeting has cuse for a relapse into cynicism. This meeting has doubtless, small importance in the Empire State, where the Democratic party, whose existence the inflation mania threatens, has declared itself the uncompromising champion of an honest carrency. But when one thinks of the great West thus striking a fatal blow at its own honor and credit, and of a great political party resur-recting the disastrons follies of the past and pandering to the ignerance and desperation of the laboring classes, it staggers the strongest belief in the slow but steady progress of humanity. Such things have often happened before. If I mistake not, no less a man than Sir James Mackintoah, in his "Vindiciae Galliem," defended the issue of the assignats. But history returned an answer which should be sufficient for all ages. The mistake all advocates of inflation make lies in considering only the necessities of the present to the entire neglect of the teachings of the past. Hear Victor Cousin:

He who, in a science, neglects the history of that science, deprives himself of the experience of ages, places himself in the position of the first inventor, and puts gratinitously against himself the same chances of error; with this difference, that the first errors having been necessary, have been useful, and are more than exemple, while the repetition of the same errors is useless for others and shameful to himself.

To read Gov. Allen's speeches, you would suppose that no such science as political economy existed, despite the noble monument which stands forth to the world in the rejuvenated prosperity of France. In one of his recent speeches be makes the astounding assertion that the condition of a country's foreign exchange is of little momentthe United States Revenue Department reported that the domestic exchanges are alone traportant. Perhaps he will next tell us that it matters not how much a household spends beyond its income, provided its members are not indebted to each other. And he will, perhaps, tell was evident that a prohibition law could not be the business men of this country that a commercial house can benefit its creditors by an unlimited issue of its pa per; for, probably, not even he will fleny that every owner of a greenback is a Government creditor. He said owner of a greenback is a Government creditor. He said recently to your correspondent, "I snow no better currency or measure of value than the deliar based upon the credit and the property of this great nation." He is an old but vigorous man. He has aspirations for the Presidency; but he is only one of many of these older children crying for the moon. I would thank him smeerely if he would condescend to explain to me why the gold dollar and the greenback dollar are sixteen cents apart in value, and why the difference varies from day to day. The only reply that I can see would be that the gold dollar, and not the greenback dollar, fluctuates. That, like all such replies, is unanswerable. New-Orleans, Oct. 1, 1875.

> WASHINGTON RING ENGINEERING. THE NEW ANACOSTIA IRON BEIDGE A DISCRACE TO THE GOVERNMENT.

To the Editor of The Tribune. Six: The annual report of Col. O. E. Babcock, on the iron bridge across the Anacostia branch of the Potomne, near Washington Navy-Yard, has recently been printed. The bridge has been recently constructed depending on the amount of their product. No tax under his supervision, and I desire to call attention to is imposed on the saie of wine or cider made from some very important facts in connection with that report. The following is an abstract of the description and specifications for the bridge, published prior to its construction : The bridge was to consist of 12 spans of 102 feet each,

and one draw of 36 feet, making the entire length of the

aperstructure 1,260 feet; each span was to be composed of two iron trusses 18 feet high, iron beams and wooden floors. The width of the roadway between the trusses was to be 20 feet, and two sidewalks were to be placed outside, each having a width of five feet; thus making closes liquor saloons between 11 p. m. and 6 a. m., the entire width of floor surface 39 feet. As and on Sundays, unless the authorities of a city or the length was 102 feet, the floor area of each span would be 3,060 square feet. All parts of the bridge were to be so proportioned that the maximum strain resulting from its own weight and an applied lead of 100 pounds to the square foot of floor surface should not exceed one-sixth of the ultimate strength of the iron. Hence, the surface, 3,060 feet, multiphed by 100 pounds, gives the load for each span of 206,000 pounds. I have no criticism to make of the plan of the bridge so far as load and strength are concerned ration is very marked. It is already ascertained that the number of places where liquor is sold has cations for common road bridges. The specifications for largely diminished. The tax from license fees is expected to amount to a considerable sum, that from the work done does not is any respect correspond with the requirements, and the Colonel's report does not prop to from \$80,000 to \$109,000. The quiet of the erly describe either the work, as it has been done, nor the specifications, while the test reported as having been ap-

every span of the bridge was submitted to a test of 53,282 pounds. The deflection produced by this load was not perceptible." That this assertion as to absence of deflection cannot be true, any one may learn by standing At a recent session of the Assembly Committee of on the bridge while ordinary teams are passing. He will the New-York Legislature for the Investigation of then see, and feel too, that the passing of even a single after "The Raven" was printed and published, Crime, Dr. Kitchen, Chief of the Medical Staff on load will produce such deflections, both vertical and horispecifications.

only about one-aixth of it? The strain owner a fine test was not to exceed one-sixth of the ultimate strength of the tron. Practical bridge-builders who understand the brishess, after seeing the bridge, will readily answer the foregoing questions by saying that the Colonei dared not naply the full test load; that the bridge would certainly have gone down onder it, probably ander three-fourths, of it, and pessibly under one-anil of it. Intelligent observers well understand that the foodways of common bridges may occasionally become as heavily beden with human beings as the roadways with ordinary traffic. The burning of a building or a vessel in the vicinity and many other events may draw large crowds of speciators upon the bridge. Bridges most frequently fall undersone creamstances, and with the most appulling results. For these reasons well-informed engineers invariably provide as much strength for the tootway as for a corresponding exicut of floor surface in the roadway. It was so provided in the specifications for the Amacostia bridge. It was for an applied load of 100 pounds to the square foot of all the floor surface, that for some unexplained reason which, however, a fair test of the bridge would by its total failure have made quite plain, Col. Rebecck has in his report whatly incored the load due to the footways, which part is equal to one-third of the whole prescribed test load; and in regard to the readway, after applying to tit the 53,282 pounds, only about one-fourth part of the test due to the roadway alone, he makes the following deceptive statement:

"The iron work of the bridge is first class throughout and keep reportioned in all its parts that if the

But why does he say "one-fifth," while the specificaing that due to the footways, shall not execed one-sixth of the ultimate strength of the iren ! If it is true, as he says, that the load due to the roadway alone would bring into requisition only one-fifth of the strength of the iron. about one-fourth of it—that is, about one-aixth of the water on the whole prescribed test load i It is certainly quite safe to advecates. test a bridge to the extent of one fifth of its octual ce | strength, but a test that stops at one-thirdeth of that strength is little better than a force. There ought not to Contition T. Lewis, Secretary of the Chamber, stated periods that the business of all the fife insurance companies of this country during the current year has been equal to about two-thirds of the business, however, has much interection in 1874. The character of the business, however, has much interections and the peticles now issued are almost entirely for long terms—either cedimary life or endowments maturing at old age, and tims, while the companies are not increasing the volume of their business as rapidly as formerly, it is more profitable.

Leverybody connected with this work has shown a great and sonuclous anxiety to keep the discraceful truth in recard to it from the public, and offers of money their business as rapidly as formerly, it is more profitable. not expected to be be attended with very flattering; suits. Everybody connected with this work has shown great and suspicious anxiety to keep the disgraced truth in regard to it from the public, and offers of montext action to induce him not to write of this comman cation to induce him not to write anything about the bridge or the sham test of its strong and stability. But, being practically as we as scientifically fauntiar with the construction and testing of bridges and of other work of like charter, and account the dangerous defects in this bridge. If

> Col. Babecck's report is also shamefully erroneous in regard to the foundations and masoury of the bridge. The pilling is very defective. The stone work under, and most of that above water, is of the most interior character, all yielding, and considerable portions of it have from time to time tumbled down. The cement used in the piers, after being partially constructed, yielded so much as to make it necessary to take it up and drive more piles in its foundation. Other piers, after being raised to their full hight, yielded and benned so much that to prevent their falling they were taken down to "Smoot'—you just feel me."
>
> A French gentleman, who supposed he had mastered the English language, was saidly puzzled one day when a friend looked at him and caid, "How do you find yourselft" "Sarre, I never loose mayorit" "But how do you feel?" "Smoot'—you just feel me." masonry is hardly better than street and. One of the

the level of low water and their upper parts the level of low water and their upper parts relaid so, as to balance them more evenly on their constantly and irregularly sinking foundations. The bridge stands too low. Even second cannot pass under it when the tides are moderately high. It should have been placed ten feet higher. It is also very much too narrow for the traffic of that locality. The width of the draw is only 30 feet. The specifications require that it should be 36 feet. It ought to be at least 60 feet wide. Thus far it has been impossible to operate the draw, or open it suitedently to let any masted vessel pass through Briefly, the bridge is in all respects most shamefully defective. It is a most disgraceful, jobbling, Ring affer, and so very dangerous as to require the carliest possible attention on the part of Congress.

B. SEVERSON, Civil Engineer.

Washington, D. C., Sept. 18, 1875.

THE SOUTH AND INFLATION.

To the Editor of The Tribune.
Sir: Last night I was one of a party of our men discussing the inflation question. We were all members of the White League—the object of so much un-deserved abuse. None of us had ever scratched a Demo cratic ticket, because, in this State, we have had no time to scratch tickets. All agreed that no candidate standing on an inflation platform could get our votes. Now Mr. Wendell Phillips would think it hard, after all his vociferous protestations of unswerving loyalty, to be told that in regard for the honor and oredit of the Union he was distanced by four members of that organization whose very name is to him a discord, jarring upon his patriotic Yet, Sir, after the thunder tones in which you have spoken in favor of honest currency, I am willing to rest the case with you. For the rest we had hoped that this the case with you. For the rest we had hoped that this financial question would never again be agitated, and, least of all, by the Democratic party/which has always found it the forerunner of defeat. We had hoped that the country would be left free to redress the wrongs which have signalized carpet-bag rule in the South. But this question once agitated is a very Banquo's ghost. To Southern men the most encouraging sign of the times is that even the most radical wing of the Republican party has been forced by the overwhelming weight of public option into a more just and considerate policy toward the South. Two leading facts the Northern orator should lear in mind: First, that oppression of the South must result in the ruin of the North; second, that a nation's honor and credit abroad is the very breath of its neartife, and is worthy of the most superluman sacrifices. And if nonor and credit abroad is the very breath of its neatris, and is worthy of the most superfunan secrifices. And if he he he apathle of viewing the absorbing question of the day from the point of view of high principle, let him put his hand most our bocket instead of his heart. The solution is as easy one way as the other.

You-Orieans, Sept. 29, 1875.

SECTARIAN SCHOOLS NOT DESIRABLE.

To the Editor of the Tribune SIR: In your editorial upon President Grant's perch to the Army of the Tennessee you hardly do him ustice. The President not only wisely discourages support of sectarian schools by the State, but adds:

Besolve that neither the State, nor the nation, nor both combined, shall support institutions of learning other than those sufficient to afford to every child grow-ing up in the hand the opportunity of a good common school education, unmixed with sectarian, pagan, or athe-istical bias.

This is a sentiment so bold that no mere politician dare utter it. A President will yet be elected on that platform. When the State has helped all her and daughters impartially to a good com-mon school education, she has done her duly. Beyond that line education is a luxury. The young man who can "read, write, and cipher," and reason, will be a better citizen to work out his own patent of nobility beyond that line. Should the State compel every youth within her borders to attend school for a period of ten years at the common school, pay all their bills and buy all their clothing, she a race of pigmies, and the love of education and its real a race of pigmies, and the love of education and its real glory would all be lost. In a republican government the voluntary system is the only practical one. The spirit of benevolence is checked when the State usurps his work in education, and one of the best features of a republican government is perverted. The nation owes a debt of gratifude to President Grant for the boldness of his speach for its loftness, and the day is near by weach the people will be heard and will pay the debt.

A. R. C. Albion, Mo., Sept. 30, 1873.

THE "FAST MAIL" A MISNOMER. To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sin: What is the matter with the machinery of the fast mail train ! For the first two weeks all went well, and we got our Thinunes on time. Now one news agent gets his package and another doesn't. So in order to get a paper I must make the round of the news and often without success. This morning we get and often without success. This morning we got Mon-iay norming's paper. "Twas not ever thus." 6. -Totedo, Okto, Oct. 1, 1875.

## PENNSYLVANIA POLITICS.

PROMINENT ISSUES IN THE CAMPAIGN. INFLATION NOT BOLDLY ADVOCATED BY DEMO-CRATIC LEADERS-CRITICISM OF JUDGE PER-SHING.

[PROM THE REGULAR CORRESPONDENT OF THE TRIBUNE.] PHILADELPHIA, Oct. 11.-There is no denying that the Democrats have made a bad start in the Pennsylvania campaign. Their leaders admit this, and each tries to shift the blame upon the others. Three weeks have passed since the Erle Convention and almost nothing in the way of effective work has been done. The condition of success was an aggressive fight against the State Treasury Ring and the corrupt city governments controlled by the Republicans. Instead, a policy of waiting for the expected flood-tide of inflation in Ohio to carry Mr. Fairfield naively accepts this story as a choice bit of veritable history, illustrative of Poe's epileptic fundency to habitual lying. For how could "The Raven" have been composed at a single sitting, when Mr. Fairfield assures us that he has the evidence to that the primary cause of most of the crimes that led to imprisonment on that island was the intemperate use.

Crime, Dr. Kitchen, Chief of the Medical Staff on Blackwell's Island, testified concerning the prisoners that a choice of the crimes that led to deliberate choice in the party cause of most of the crimes that led to imprisonment on that island was the intemperate use.

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Crime, Dr. Kitchen, Chief of the Medical Staff on Blackwell's Island, testified concerning the prisoners the result of deliberate choice in the party could not be a control of the crimes that led to deliberate choice in the party could not be a control of the crimes and the control of the crimes sixth part of the 506,000-pound test load required by the | the inflationists. These men have such confidence in the specifications.

Now, why did the Colonel stop at that point? Why did

success of the rag-money movement in Ohio that they think it would be a waste of effort to begin the fight in thought it would be advisable to increase the liceuse the not go on and apply the fift test? Or three-fourths of the carnest here until they can have the impetus of the expectation of the carnest here until they can have the impetus of the expectation. This policy of the carnest here until they can have the impetus of the expectation. only about one-sixth of the 206,000 pounds, instead of only about one-sixth of it? The strain under a full test was not to exceed one-sixth of the ultimate strength of the inner strength of the Democratic press is kent to have the impetus of the expected victory in October in that State. This policy of delay has enabled the Republicans to take the offensive, and the Democratic press is kent to have the impetus of the expected victory in October in that State. This policy of delay has enabled the Republicans to take the offensive, and the Democratic press is kent to have the impetus of the expected victory in October in that State. This policy of delay has enabled the Republicans to take the offensive, in war the chances are always on the side of the attack ing party, and there is no question that up to this time the advantage in the campaign is all on the side of the Depublicans. If the election were to be held to-morrow I believe that Hartranft would have 20,000 majority.

The inflation planks in the Eric platform do not arouse the anticipated enthusiasm. Orators and newspapers that comprehend and can explain the reg-money do-trine are scarce. So many speakers are apologizing for the measures it proposes would afford any relief for hard times. No prominent party leader has boldly taken the stump for plenty of cheap irredeemable greenbacks. Senator Wallace in his speech at Clearfield says that the platform "does not mean indefinite postponement of specie payments," permitted in the resolutions, and that the Convention deceptive statement:
"The iron work of the bridge is first class throughout, and is so praportioned in all its parts that if the readway should be leaded with 100 pounds to each and every square foot of surface, or one ton per lineal foot, the bridge would be strained to only one-lifth of its ulti-mate strength."

But why declared to a reference to find the following declaring that "a sound currency should be gold and silver or redectable therein." Mr. Wallace is candid enough to say that if those who thought as he did had been permitted to express their views in their own Ian guage they would have declared for a reference to the results of the proposition to insert a clause declaring that "a sound currency should be gold and silver or redectable therein." Mr. Wallace is candid enough to say that if those who thought as he did had been permitted to express their views in their own Ian guage they would have declared for a reference to the proposition to insert a clause declaring that "a sound currency should be gold and silver or redectable therein." Mr. Wallace is candid enough to say that if those who thought as he did had been permitted to express their views in their own Ian guage they would have declared for a reference to the proposition to insert a clause declaring that "a sound currency should be gold and silver or redectable therein." Mr. Wallace is candid enough to say that if those who thought as he did had been permitted to express their views in their own Ian guage they would be strained to only one-lift the read with 100 permitted to express their views in the read with 100 permitted to express their views in the read with 100 permitted to express the re tions require that the strain under the full load, including that due to the footways, shall not exceed apparish Brindle and Frank W. Hughes choked off the sensible and prudent element in the Convention. His guarded and half-hearted indorsement of the platform puts him in about the same attitude as that occupied by Senator then why did he not apply that load, instead of only | Thurman in Ohio, and has the effect of a bucket of cold

the siump has seriously damaged his chances. A popular candidate, leading his party in a dashing assault have been the slightest danger in applying all of the load upon the enemy, was what the Eric Convention promised the Democrats, but it turns out that they have got an over-cautious, retiring gentleman, who is too well con-tented with his judicial position to risk losing it for the possibility of grasping the higher honors of the Governorship. True, the Judge has respectable examples for his course. There was Judge Woodward, who ran for Governor of Pennsylvania while on the bench, and Gov. Bedle of New-Jersey did not resign his

bench, and Gov. Bedle of New-Jersey did not resign his Judge-slip until elected. Nevertheless Judge Pershing's action disappoints his party. It wanted a bold leader who would throw binself with dash and confidence into the front of the light, and can searcely be reconciled to a general who argos on his followers from the secure shellow of a bomb-proof.

The Republican assaults on Judge Pershing's record have not hard him as much as the fact that he and his supporters have allowed themselves to be pushed into a defensive attitude. All that has been made out against him is that, while a Democratic member of the Legislature, during the war, he voted with his party and was lust as slapht on the negro question as his fellow-members. Mr. Edward McPherson has labored hard to prove that Judge Pershing opposed the Seldiers' Voting law, but has only succeeded he consteting himself of misapprehending the regord and of not having the candot to avow his mistake. The fruth is Judge Pershing was a fair average sample of a Pennyiyonia Democrat during the Robellion—he was not a sympathizer with the South, nor was he a proposed with man to home, an

GENERAL NOTES.

Typhoid and bilious fevers everywhere about this time.

A dog weighing only three ounces is astonishing the fanciers of Troy.

No convict has escaped from the Vermont

State Prison for 18 years. There is no woman prison Two hundred Mormons have established an Ebenezer in London, Oat., and are much troubled by mobs of disorderly unbelievers.

"A Magic Doctor" named Hawkins has been arrested at Atlanta, Ga., for swindling colored people, and he was put into the chain gang.

The irrepressible Thomas Doner of South Bend, Ind., having had his arms frozen off while on a spree, has written a book with his toes. A field of 60,000 acres is the property of a gentleman in Nucces County, Texas, and he recently filled an order by telegraph for 26,000 beoves.

Mention is made in a far-Western newspaper of an Indian maiden who wears array pantaloons, uses tobacco, and goes by the name of "Failing Water." There are sandblast works at West Rutland, Vt., which turns out 1,300 headstones a day, most of which are for soldiers' graves.

Two children have been poisoned at Youngstown, Ohio, by eating a fungus growth which they found on stumps—one of the poor things fataily. The water is so low in some of the Western

rivers that the cattish have to stand on their heads to The oldest man in New-England is John

Rullock of Bristol, R. I., aged CVI, years. He held Gen. Vashington's horse during one of his visits to the State. Three bears in one week were slaughtered Mr. Sheldon B. Hewitt, aged 70 years, in Clark unty, Wis. A gentleman named Fleece (not Golden

e) is writing articles in favor of soft money in a Joseph Hay of Troy, for acting the part of an intimidator by waving an unloaded horse-pistol at his

foe, has been fined \$3. A very good two-story wooden house, with

the outbuildings, was sold at Charleston, S. C., the other day for \$145. The first child born in Steuben County, N.

Y., is still living, but he is a little too old to be whipped and sent to look by his mamma. For the best bread to be made and baked by a bachelor a Canadian agricultural society has offered

The most sensible firemen's parade we have over heard of was at Bristol, Penn., lately. It cleared

Margaret Clark of Mt. Clare, Penn., age 77, cently walked from Steamboat Station (ten miles)

It was a singular coincidence, that while Mr. fathis of Missouri was milking his cow, she should fall ead, and he equally dead a few minutes after. They say that while the flood was at its hight in Guiveston, Texas, the fare for a trip across the

treet on a men's shoulders was \$2. Cab fare for a four pare rele, \$10. Touching conclusion of an obituary notice in an Indiana newspaper: "He was an elder in the Methodist Church and the leader of the brass band in the vil-

At Pekin, Ill., Henry Becker, a young man, was riding in a wagon with a loaded gun between his knees. It was accidentally discharged, blowing off the top of Becker's head. An immense ledge of isinglass has been

found in the mountains near Snake River, Idaho. It is 30 feet wide, and one of the most valuable discoveries of the kind over made. The statement that P. C. Armijo of New-Mexico owns 2,000,000 sheep, ranging over a region 300 miles square, is pronounced by The Portland Oregonian to be "ridiculous."

One hundred and thirty negroes from the East, destined to act as walters in the new Palace Hotel in San Francisco, passed through Gold Hill, Nevada, the

The Managing Director of the London and Kansas Land and Colonization Association has just bought 41 square miles of land on the west end of the Kansas Pacific Railroad. The mammoth hotel to be built at St. Louis

y Boston capitalista will be 12 stories, 300 feet square. 70 feet high; and will centain 2,000 rooms, accommo-Note received by a San Francisco editor: Sir: You reported me as heading a certain procession

on Monday evening. Retract the malicious lie or prepare conract for a first-class cowliding. A Wason." A crab-apple tree in Westfield, Vt., has blosomed four times during the past season, and now has ur sets of apples on to or in prospect, the eldest nearly set, the second about the size of peas, the third just set-

and the fourth in blossom In New-Haven, after the casket containing the remains of a little child had been taken from one lot to another and relatered there, a black-and-tau terrier by down by the grave, and would not be driven away

A missionary in Siam for 30 years, the Rev. John H. Chandler, will next Spring visit Canterbury, Conn., where he was formerly settled, and will also attend the Centennial Exhibition as the Commissioner of

An extremely well educated bird, a species An extremely went character bins, a species of banary, of a dark mottled color, is exhibited by a San Francisco Chinaman. At the word of command it selects out of a series of envelopes, those containing cards which have the day of the mouth and the hour of day, rarely, if ever, ranking a mistake.

It is said that if you keep anything whatever long enough you will at last find a use for it; and there are those who experience a pleasure in preserving odds and ends of no value-a pleasure which is payment in itself. Commonplace books are sometimes mournful monuments of misdirected industry and persistence; monuments of misdirected industry and persistence; but saider still is the case of the old woman in Bridgpert, Penn. For 40 years she has been collecting medical recipes and pasting them into a scrap-book. She has now 5,000 of them—prescriptions for every company which flesh or bone inherits. Possibly the Landling of so many formulas may have exercised an occali but beneficial influence upon the health of this ancient dame, but at any rote she has never been sick a day in her life. She is maturally growing a little discouraged; but does she find no reflet in decreting her follow-residues? If she doesn't she must be a remarkable old woman.

Extraordinary story in Omaha of a "spirtualistic shoemaker? this is. He pretends to be a medinm, or clairvoyant, or whatever the proper name is, of the most wonderful sort. Recently, while engaged in the convivialities of a lager beer saloon, he went into a trance and observed that "some one was stealing a new pair of boots from his shop." Just at this moment a messenger came and told him that a man had gone into his place stolen boots, and fallen down in a fit on the side walk. "All right," said the necromancer; "he can't come out of that fit till I get there." so the spiritanistic shoemaker calmly played out his hand, and then went ever to see about matters. Over the prestrate and convulsed petry larcenist he made certain passes and uttered sundry mystical formulas, when the third stood creek, gave up the boots, received a kick and departed.

Garrard County, Ky., must be the most octogenarian locality in the Union. Rachel Garnett lives there, aged 104 years-a woman who remembers to have seen Gen. Washington in full regimentals. There are two others-John Croucher and Aunt Polly Pointer-who have reached 100 years each. Then there is the Rev. it Kemper, 89, who has been minister of the burch for 60 years. But we haven't space i

Holt County, Mo., has been the scene of a hymencal excitement. There Miss Alice Carson smiled upon two gentlemen, Messrs. Kreizer and Wheeler. Now, one of three. The mistake was that Miss Alice accepted both the enamored, and actually agreed to marry both on the same day. Wheeler engaged the services of a on the same day. Wheeler engaged the services of a Methodist preacher, Kretzer spoke to the Rev. Mr. Edmonds. But Wheeler with his parson arrived before Kretzer with his parson, and Miss Alice feeling that the first come should be the first served, suffered heaself to be made Mrs. Wheeler. Just as the couple were turned off the writched Kretzer appeared upon the scene. He demanded an explanation. The happy bridegroom refused it. Pistois were drawn and brandished. Friends interposed, however, and the wretched Kretzer withfrew to settle in agony of soul with his minister for services which had not been performed.

At a remain of the minusers of Cuvahores.

At a rennion of the pioneers of Cuyahoga County, Ohio, various bits of antiquity were exhibited, and among them "a woman's corset, made in 1762, and sample of a Pennsylvania Democrat during the Robellon —he was not a sympathizer with the South, nor was he a pronounced war man. That he is a man of honor, an exemplary citizen, and an upright Judge, nobody vontures to deny. Assinst Mr. Victor E. Pollet, the candidate for Siste Treasurer, the charges in Republican organs thus far are no more sections than that he is a democrate in a lawsuit with his mother-in-law about some property.

A Figure gentleman, who supposed he had mustered the English language, was sadiy puzzled one day when a friend looked at him and caid, "flow do you find your selft". There was also a red cloak, a century old, exhibited, formerly owned by Mary French; and about this we have no misstyrusza. We have no doubt of the prettiness of the little Red-riding-hood of Cayahoga. A girl named day when a friend looked at him and caid, "flow do you find your selft". The way bear killed by a pioneer, whose marked 'Ruth Hanchett.'" It would be easy to write a charming. The very bear killed by a pioneer, whose skull was also exhibited, world have gone off, if he had met her, without touching or tasting her.